

**Relation of the successful beginnings of the Lord Baltimore's plantation in Mary-land; being an extract of certaine letters written from thence, by some of the adventures to their friends in England.**

A RELATION OF MARYLAND.

1634.

184 R3

SHEA'S EARLY SOUTHERN TRACTS.

*No. I.*

The “ Relation of the Successful Beginnings of the Lord Baltimore's Plantation in Maryland, ” which we now publish, is printed from a transcript of the excessively rare work, printed in 1634, and found in the British Museum. It was unquestionably the first publication, issued in London, describing the new *Province* of Maryland;—the *first* PROVINCE possessed by the British Empire. The pamphlet now given was perhaps prepared by Cecilius Calvert, Lord Baltimore, from the letters of his brothers Leonard and George Calvert, who went out with the expedition. Indeed, it is probable that it is in the exact language of the adventurers themselves, and so, contains their fresh impressions of the land and people during the first two months of their residence in America. They came into the Chesapeake on the 3d of March, and the document is dated “from Saint *Mairie's* in Mary-land, 27 May, 1634.”

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This pamphlet served as the basis of the more extended colonizing programme and description of the Province, called " A Relation of Maryland, " subsequently published in London in 1635, and lately reprinted here by Mr. Sabin.

We were so charmed by the racy freshness of the pages now issued from the rare original of 1634,—a printed copy of which we have never seen in this country,—that we thought our readers might share the delight with which we perused the narrative, and be glad to possess a copy of the virgin draft of the familiar letters which afterwards grew into a more pretentious, colonizing pamphlet.

B. M.

Baltimore, 16 Aug., 1865.

A RELATION of The successefull beginnings of the Lord Baltemore's Plantation in MARY-LAND; Being an extract of certaine Letters written from thence, by some of the Aduenturers to their friends in England.

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**A Relation of the successful beginnings of the LORD BALTEMORE'S Plantation in Mary-land.**

ON *Friday* the 22 of November 1633, a small gale of winde comming gently from the Northwest, weighed from the *Cowes*, in the Ile of *Wight*, about ten in the morning; & (hauing stayed by the way twenty dayes at the *Barbada's*, and fourteene dayes at St Christophers, vpon some necessary occasions,) wee arrived at *Point-Comfort* in *Virginia*, on the 24. of *February* following, *the Lord be praised for it*. At this time one Captaine *Claybourne* was come from parts where wee intended to plant, to *Virginia*, and from him wee vnderstood, that all the natiues of these parts were in preparation of defence, by reason of a rumour some-body had raised amongst them, of sixe 6 sixe ships that were come with a power of *Spanyards*, whose meaning was to driue all the inhabitants out of the Countrey.

Wee had good letters from his Maiesty to the Gouvernour and Councill of *Virginia*, which made him fauor vs and shew vs as noble vsage as the place afforded, with promise, that for their Cattel and Hoggs, Corne and Poultry, our plantation should not want the open way to furnish ourselues from thence: He told vs likewise, That when his Lordship should be resolu'd on a conuenient place to make himself a seat. he should be able to provide him with as much Bricke and Tile as he should haue occasion to imploy, vntill his Lordship had made of his own: Also, that he had to furnish his Lordship with two or three hundred stocks ready grafted with Peares, Apples, Plummes, Apricotes, Figgs, and Peaches, and some Cherries: That he had also some Orange and Limon trees in the grounds which yet thriued; Also Filberds, Hazelnuts and Almonds; and in one place of the Colony, Quince-trees, wherewith he could furnish his Lordship; and, in fine, that his Lordship should not want any thing that Colony had.

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On the 3. of *March* wee came into *Chesapeake* Bay, 7 Bay, and made sayle to the North of Patoemeck riuer, the Bay running betweene two sweete lands in the channell of 7. 8. and 9 fathome deepe, 10 leagues broad, and full of fish at the time of the yeere; It is one of the delightfulest waters I euer saw, except Potoemeck, which wee named St. Gregories. And now being in our own Countrey, wee began to giue names to places, and called the Southerne Pointe, *Cape Saint Gregory*; and the Northerly Point, *Saint Michaels*.

This riuer, of all I know, is the greatest and sweetest, much broader than the *Thames*; so pleasant, as I for my part, was neuer fatisfied in beholding it. Few marshes or swamps, but the greatest part sollid good earth, with great Curiosity of woods which are not Choaked vp with vnder-shrubbes, but set commonly one from the other in such distance, as a Coach and foure horses may easily trauell through them.

At the first loaming of the ship vpon the river, wee found (as was foretold vs) all the Countrey in Armes. The King of the *Paschattowayes* had drawen together 1500 bowemen, which wee ourselues saw, the woods were fired in manner of beacons the night after; and for that our vessell was 8 was the greatest that euer those Indians saw, the scowtes reported wee came in a Canoa, as bigge as an Island, and had as many men as there bee trees in the woods.

Wee sayled vp the river till wee came to *Heron* Ilands, so called from the infinite swarmes of that fowle there. The first of those Ilands we called *Saint Clement's*: The second *Saint Katharine's*; And the third, *Saint Cicilie's*. We took land first in *Saint Clement's*, which is compassed about with a shallow water, and admitts no accesse without wading; here by the ouerturning of the Shallop, the maids which had been washing at the land were almost drowned, beside the losse of much linnen, and amongst the rest, I lost the best of mine which is a very maine losse in there parts. The ground is couered thicke with pokickeries (which is a wild Wall-nut very hard and thick of shell; but the meate (though little) is passing sweete,) with black Wall-nuts, and acorns bigger than Ours. It abounds

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with Vines and Salletts, hearbs and flowers, full of Cedar and Sassafras. It is but 400 acres bigg, & therefore too little for vs to settle vpon.

Heere we went to a place, where a large tree was 9 was made into a Crosse; and taking it on our shoulders, wee carried it to the place appointed for it. The Gouvernour and Commissioners putting their hands first vnto it, then the rest of the chieftest aduenturers. At the place prepared wee all kneeled downe, & said certain Prayers; taking possession of the Countrey for our Saviour, and for our soueraigne Lord the King of *England*.

Here our Gouvernour had good aduice giuen him, not to land for good and all, before hee had beene with the Emperour of *Paschattoway*, and had declared vnto him the Cause of our coming: Which was first to learne them a diuine Doctrine, which would lead their Soules to a place of happinesse after this life were ended; And also, to enrich them with such Ornaments of a ciuill life wherewith our Countrey doth abound: and this Emperour being satisfied, none of the inferiour Kings would stirre. In conformity to this aduice, hee took two Pinnaces, his owne, and another hired in *Virginia*; and leauing the Ship before Saint *Clements* at Anchor, went vp the river and landing on the South Side, and finding the Indians fled for feare, came to Potoemack Towne, when the King being a child, Archihau his vncler go- uerned 10 uerned both him and his Countrey for him. Hee gaue all the Company good Well-come: & one of the Company hauing entered into a little discourse with him touching the errours of their religion, hee seemed well pleased therewith; & at his going away desired him to return vnto him againe, telling him hee should liue at his Table, his men should hunt for him, and hee would diuide all with him.

From hence they went to *Paschattoway*. All were heere armed: 500 Bow-men came to the Water-side. The Emperour himself more fearlesse than the rest, came priuately aboard, where he was courteously entertained; and vnderstanding wee came in a peaceable manner, bade vs welcome, and gaue vs leaue to fit downe in what place of his Kingdome wee pleased. While this King was aboard, All the Indians came to the Water-side, fearing treason, wherevpon two of the King's men, that attended him in our shippe were appointed

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to row on shoare to quit them of this feare: but they refusing to goe for feare of the popular fury; the interpretours standing on the Deck shewed the King to them that hee was in safety, where-with they were satisfied. In this iourney the Gouverneur 11 iours entertained Captaine *Henry Fleete* & his three barks; who accepted a proportion in beaver trade to serue vs, being skillfull in the tongue, & well beloued of the natiues.

Whilest the Gouverneur was abroad the *Indians* began to lay aside feare, & to come to our Court of guard, which wee kept night and day vpon Saint *Clements'* Ile: partly to defend our Barge, which was brought in pieces out of *England*, & there made vp, and partly to defend the Captaines men, which were employed in felling of trees, and cleaning pales for the pallizado: and at last they ventured to come aboard our ship. It was worth the hearing for those who vnderstood them to heare what admiration at our ship; Calling it a Canow, and wondering where so great a tree grew that made it, conceiuing it to bee made of one piece, as their Canows are. Our great Ordnance was a great & fearefull thunder, they had neuer heard any before; all the Countrey trembles at them.

The Gouverneur being returned, wee Came some nine leagues lower to a riuer on the North Side of that land, as bigg as the *Thames*: which wee called Saint *Gregorie's* river. It runs vp to the North 12 North about 20 miles before it comes to the fresh. This river makes two excellent Bayes, for 300 sayle of Shippes of 1000. tunne, to harbour in with great safety. The one Bay we named Saint *George's*; the other (and more inward) Saint *Marie's*. The King of Yaocomico, dwells on the left-hand or side thereof: & we tooke vp our Seate on the right, one mile within the land. It is as braue a piece of ground to set down on as most is in the Countrey, & I suppose as good, (if not much better) than the primest parcell of *English* ground.

Our Town we call Saint *Marie's*; and to auoid all iust occasion of offence, & collour of wrong, wee bought of the King for Hatchett Axes, Howes, and Cloathes, a quantitie of some 30 miles of Land, which wee call *Augusta Carolina*; And that which made them the more willing to sell it, was the warres they had with the *Sasquesa-hanoughs*, a mighty

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bordering nation, who came often into their Countrey, to waste & destroy; & forced many of them to leaue their Countrey, and passe ouer Patoemeck to free themselues from perill before wee came. God no doubt disposing all this for them, who were to bring his law and light among the 13 the Infidells. Yet, seeing wee came soe well prepared with armes, their feare was much lesse, & they could be content to dwell by vs: Yet doe they daily relinquish their houses, lands, & Corne-fields, & leaue them to vs. Is not this a piece of wonder that a nation, which a few dayes before was in armes with the rest against vs, should yeeld themselues now vnto vs like lambes, & giue vs their houses, lands and liuings, for a trifle? *Digitus Dei est hic:* and surely some great good is entended by God to his Nation. Some few families of *Indians*, are permitted to stay by vs till next yeere, & then the land is free.

Wee had not beene long time seated there, ere Sir *John Haruey*, Gouvernor of *Virginia*, did our Gouvernour the honour (in most friendly manner) to visit him: & during the time of his being there, the King of *Patuxunt* also came to visit vs; and being come aboard the *Arke*, and brought into the great Cabbin, & seated betweene the two Gouvernors (Captaine *Fleete* and Master *Golding* the interpreters being present) he began his Speech as followeth.

*When I heard that a great Werowance of the English was come to Yoacomoco, I had a great de sire to see him. But when I heard the Werowance of Pasbie-haye was come thither also to visit him, I presently start vp, and without further counsell, came to see them both.*

In the time of his stay at Saint *Mairie's*, wee kept the Solemnitie of carrying our Colours on shore: and the King of *Patuxunt* accompanying vs, was much taken with the Ceremony. But the same night (hee and Captaine *Fleete* being at the Indian House) the *Arke's* great gunnes, to honour the Day, spake aloud; which the King of *Patuxunt* with great admiration hearing, counselled his friends the *Yoacomoco Indians* to be carefull that they breake not their peace with vs; & said: *When wee shoote, our Bow-strings giue a twang that's heard but a little way off: But doe you not heare what cracks their Bow-strings giue?*

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Many such pretty sayings hee vsed in the time of his being with vs, & at his departure, hee thus exprest his extraordinary affection vnto vs:

*I doe loue the English soe well, that if they should kill me, so that they left mee with so much breath, as to speake vnto my people, I would commend them not to reuenge my Death.*

As for the Natiues they are proper tall men of person; 15 person; swarthy by nature but much more by Art: painting themselues with Colours in oyle, like a darke Red, which they doe to keep the Gnatts off: wherein I confesse, there is more case than Comlinesse.

As for their faces, they haue other Colours at times, as Blew from the nose vpward, and Red downeward, and sometime contrariwise in great variety, and in very gastly manner; sometimes they haue no beards till they come to be very old, and therefore drawe from each side of their mouthes, lines to their very eares, to represent a beard; & this sometimes of one colour, and sometimes of another.

They wear their hair generally very long, and it is as black as *Jett*: which they bring vp in a Knott to the left eare, and tye it about with a large string of Wampampegge, or Roanoke, or some other of the best Jewels among them. Vpon their forehead, some vse to weare a Fish of Copper, and some weare other figures.

About their neckes, they vse to weare many bugle chaynes, though these begin now not to be esteemed among them for truck. Their apparell generally is deere-skin, and some Furre, which they 16 they weare like loose mantles: yet vnder this about their middle, all women & men, at man's estate, weare *Perizomata* (or round aprons) of skinnes, which keeps them decently couered, that without any offence to chast eyes, wee may conuerse with them.

All the rest of their bodies are naked, & at times, some of the youngest sort both of men & women have iust nothing to couer them. Their feete are as hard as any horne, when



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they runne ouer prickles & thornes they feele it not. Their Armes is a Bow, with a bunch of Arrowes, of a yard long, furnisht with three feathers at the top; and pointed either with the point of a deere's horne, or a sharp three-cornered white flint; the rest is a small cane, or straight sticke. They are so experte at these, that I haue once seen one, a good distance off, strike a very small bird through the middelle: and they vsed to cast a thing vp from hand, and before it come to the ground to meete it with a shaft. Their bowes are but weake, and carry not leuell very farre; yet these are their liuelyhood, and euey day they are abroad after squirrells, paretidges, turkies, deere, & the like game; whereof there is a wonderfull plenty; though wee dare not yet be so bold ourselues, 17 ourselues, as to fetch fresh meate by this meanes, farre off.

The *Indian* houses are all built heere in a long halfe Ouall; nine or tenne foote high to the midelle top, where (as in ancient Temples) the light is admitted by a window, halfe a yarde square; which window is also the chimney, which giueth passage to the smoake, the fire being made in the middest of the floore (as in our old halls of *England*) and about it they vse to lie. Saue only that their Kings & great men haue their Cabbins, and a bed of skinnes well dressed (wherein they are excellent) set on boards and foure stakes driuen into the ground. And now at this present, many of vs live in these *Witchotts* (as they terme them) conueniently enough till better bee sett vp: But they are dressed vp something better than when the *Indians* had them.

The naturall witt of this nation is good and quick, and will concieue a thing very readily: they excell in smell and tast, & haue far sharper sight than wee. Their ordinary diet is Poane and Omine, both made of Corne, to which they adde at times, Fish, Fowle, and Venison.

They are of great temperance, especially from C Hott-waters 18 Hott-waters or Wine, which they are hardly brought to tast, saue onely whom the *English* haue corrupted with their owne vices.

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For modestie, I must confesse, I neuer saw from Man or Woman, any action tending to leuitie; & yet daily the poore soules are heere in our houses, & take content to bee with vs, bringing sometimes Turkies, sometimes Squirrells as bigge as *English* Rabbetts, but much more dainty; at other times fine white cakes, Patridges, Oisters ready boil'd and stewed: and doe runne vnto vs with smiling countenance when they see vs, and will fish and hunt for vs, if wee will; and all this with entercourse of very few words, but wee haue hitherto gathered their meaning by signes.

It is lawfull among them to haue more wiues than one: but all keepe the rigour of coniugall faith vnto their Husbands. The women's very aspect is modest and graue.

Generally the nation is so noble, that you cannot doe them any favour or good turnes but they returne it. There is small passion among them, but they weigh all with a calme and quiet reason. And to doe this the better, in greate affaires they are studdying in a long silence what is best to bee said 19 said or done: And then they answer yea or no, in two words: And stand constantly to their resolution.

If these people were once Christians (as by some signes wee have haue reason to thinke nothing hinders it but want of language) it would bee a right vertuous & renowned Nation.

As for their religion, we haue not language ourselues to find it out; Master *Thoroughgood*, who driues his Lordship's trade vpon the riuier Patuxunt, hath related somewhat.

First they acknowledge One God of Heaven, which they call (our) God; and cry, a thousand shames vpon those Christians that so lightly offend so good a God. But they giue no externall honour vnto him, but vse all their might to please an Okee (or frantick spirit) for feare of harme from him. They adore also Wheat and Fire as two gods, very beneficiall vnto man's nature.

In the Machicomoco, or Temple of *Patuxunt*, there was scene by our Traders this Ceremony. Vpon a day appointed all the Townes mett, and a great fire being made;

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about it stood the younger sort, and behinde them againe the elder. Then taking a little deer suett, they cast it into the fire, crying 20 crying *Taho, Taho*, and lifting their hands to heauen. After this, was brought before them a great Bagg, filled with a large Tobacco-pipe and Poake, which is the word they vse for Our *Tobacco*. This was carried about the fire, the youth following, and singing *Taho, Taho*, in very good tune of voice, and Comely gesture of body.

The round ended, one comes reuerently to the Bagg, and opening it, takes out the *Pipe*, and diuides the Poake from one to one. As euery one tooke his draught, hee breath'd his smoake vpon the limbs of his owne body; as it were to sanctifie them by this ceremony, to the honour & seruice of their God, whomsoever they meant.

This is all I can say touching their religion: saue onely that they seeme to haue some knowledge by tradition, of a flood wherein the world was drowned for sinne.

And now to returne to the place itself, chosen for our plantation. Wee haue been vpon it but one month, and therefore can make no large relation of it. Yet thus much I can say of it allready; For our own safety, we haue built a good strong Fort or Palizado, & haue mounted vpon it one good piece of Ordnance, and 4 Murderers, and haue seuen 21 seuen pieces of Ordnance more, ready to mount forthwith. For our prouision, heere is some store of Peasen, and Beanes, and Wheate left on the ground by the *Indians*, who had satisfaction for it.

Wee haue planted since wee came, as much Maize (or Indian Wheate) as will suffice (if God prosper it) much more company than we haue. It is vp about knee high aboue ground allready, and wee expect return of 1000. for one, as we haue reason for our hope, from the experience of the yeelde in other parts of this Countrey, as is very credibly related to vs.

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We haue also *English* Peasen, & French-beanes, Cotten, Oringes, Limons, Melocotunes, Apples, Peares, Potatos, and Sugar-Canes of our owne planting, beside Hortage comming vp very finely.

But such is the quantity of Vines and Grapes now allready vpon them (though young) as I dare say if wee had Vessells and skill, wee might make many a tonne of Wine, euen from about our Plantation; and such Wine, as those of Virginia say (for yet we can say nothing) as is as good as the Wine of Spaine. I feare they exceede; but surely very good. For the Clime of this Countrey is neere the same with *Sivill* and Corduba: lying betweene 38 & 40 degrees of Northerlie latitude. Of

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Of Hoggs we have allready got from *Achomack* (a plantation in *Virginia*) to the number of 100, & more: and some 30 Cowes; and more wee expect daily, with Goats and Hennes; our Horses and Sheepe wee must have out of *England*, or some other place by the way, for we can haue none in Virginia.

For the Commodities, I will speake more when I see further; onely wee haue sent ouer a good quantitie of Iron-stone, for a tryall, which, if it proue well, the place is likly to yeeld infinite store of it. And for that flaxe and hempe which wee haue sowed, it comes vp, and wee hope will thriue exceedingly well: I end with the soyle, which is excellent, couered with store of large strauberries, Raspices, Vines, Sassafras, Wall-nutts, Acornes, & the like: and this in the wildest woods too.

The mould is blacke, a foot deepe, and then comes after a red Earth. All is high wood, but in the *Indian* fields, which are some parcells of ground cleared for Corne. It abounds with good Springs, which is our drinke. Of beasts; I haue seene Deere, Racounes, and Squirrills, beside which there are many others, which I haue not yet seene. Of Birds diuersely feathered there are infinite; Eagles, Bitternes, 23 Bitternes, Herons, Swannes, Geese, Parteridge, Ducks, red, blew, partie-coloured Birds, and the like. By all which it

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appeareth, the Countrey aboundeth not onely with profit but with pleasure. And to say trueth, there wanteth nothing for the perfecting of this hopefull plantation; but greater numbers of our Country-men to enjoy it.

From Saint *Mairie's* in Mary-land, 27 May 1634.

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